

BOROUGH OF



STALYBRIDGE.

ANNUAL
✓ REPORT ✓
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH.


1939

JAMES GORMAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

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BOROUGH OF STALYBRIDGE.

COMMITTEES.

(Nov. 1939—Nov. 1940).

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman	-	-	-	Alderman George Potts, J.P.
Deputy Chairman	-	The Mayor (Coun. G. Leigh, J.P.)		
		Alderman T. B. Williams, J.P., C.C., M.B., Ch.B.		
Councillor Allen.			Councillor Norminton.	
„	Carr.		„	Porter.
„	Harris.		„	Slack.
„	Hewitt.		„	Tetlow.
„	Hudson.		„	Wilson.
„	Mrs. Illingworth.			

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman	-	Alderman T. B. Williams, J.P.,	
		C.C., M.B., Ch.B.	
Deputy Chairman	-	Alderman Greenwood, J.P.	
		(Deceased 29:4:40)	
The Mayor (Ex-officio)		Councillor G. Leigh, J.P.	
Alderman Potts, J.P.			
„	Mrs. Summers, M.B.E., J.P.		
„	Wilson, J.P.		
Councillor Harris.		*Mrs. Harris.	
„	Illingworth.	*Mrs. McCarthy.	
„	Norminton.	*Mrs. Sykes.	
„	Sidebottom.	*Mrs. Tonge.	
„	Slack.	*Mrs. Walker.	

* Co-opted members.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

JAMES GORMAN, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, and
Medical Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Dept.

W. J. BRADBURY, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector, also Inspector under Contagious Diseases of Animals Act, Certified Inspector of Meat and Food and Cleansing Inspector.

J. NORRIS, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector,

Nurse E. M. HANMER, * † ‡ Health Visitor.

,, WATSON, * † ‡ Health Visitor.

,, McCANN, * † School Nurse.

S. B. ACTON, C.S.I.B., Clerk to Public Health Dept.

Resigned 11:2:39.

S. MILLWARD, C.S.I.B., Clerk to the Public Health Dept.

A. CLOUGH, Clerk to the Public Health Dept.,

(Appointed 20/3/39)

MISS E. M. RHODES, School Medical—Maternity and Child Welfare Clerk.

MISS E. HALTON, Dental Attendant and Clerk.

W. E. LAWSON, M.B., Ch.B., Visiting Ophthalmic Surgeon.

HENRY POSTON, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S (Ed.),

Visiting Orthopædic Surgeon.

W. E. C. THOMAS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G.,

Medical Officer of Ante-Natal Dept.

I. M. BREARLEY, C.S.M.M.G., Masseuse.

* State Registered.

† C. M. B.

‡ Health Visitors Certificate, R. S. I.



**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH AND MATERNITY AND
CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEES.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour, as Medical Officer of Health, to present to you the Report on the Public Health Services for the year 1939.

The Ministry of Health has recommended that this report be limited to a review of essential items. Detailed comment customarily to be found in a report of this nature, will, therefore, be reserved for some more appropriate time. Where no specific comment has been made, it may be assumed that circumstances remain unaltered as compared with the previous year.

STATISTICS.

In general, it may be said that the Birth and Infantile Mortality rates for Stalybridge are somewhat lower than those for the Country as a whole, but the Death rate is higher. (The

figures supplied by the Registrar-general do not show any maternal deaths in Stalybridge during the year). The incidence of Infectious Disease throughout the year has been markedly lower than noted in the previous year.

The annual figures for 1939 may therefore, be described as reasonably satisfactory, although a lower Birth rate, especially when allied with a higher Death rate is not to be regarded with complacency.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

I would express my appreciation of the Committees' co-operation and of the assistance rendered by my fellow officials and staffs and by my own staff, during the year.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES GORMAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Stalybridge.

November, 1940.

EMPLOYMENT—representative of insured persons.

Unemployed at :—

	Males.	Females.	Average %
(1) December, 1938 ...	26.6	17.5	22.8
(2) December, 1939 ...	12.4	7.2	10.3

EFFECT OF THE WAR.

- (a) Four months of War has had no marked effect on the annual figures of this report, but it must be borne in mind that the major part of the year was spent under peace time conditions.

- (b) The Public Health Department has borne its full share of Civil Defence responsibility. Increased duties have been placed upon the Medical Officer and his staff throughout the year, without any compensatory diminution in the ordinary activities of the Department. This situation may not at once materially affect the normal work carried out, but it would, in my view, be unwise to assume that the normal functions of the Public Health Department can for long be added to those of supervising Casualty Services, and otherwise taking a full part of Civil Defence responsibility without some adverse effect upon the Public Health Section.

DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES.

The application mentioned in last year's report for permission to retain the powers of a Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was unsuccessful.

Formal application for Diphtheria Immunisation expenditure made under Section 177 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was granted by the Minister of Health.

LEGISLATION.

Measles, Whooping Cough, and Food Poisoning became notifiable during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The live births totalled 295 giving a birth rate of 12.6 per thousand. The still births numbered 15. The Birth rate for the previous year was 13.55 per thousand, and the still births numbered 25.

TABLE I.

Birth-Rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1939 (Provisional figures).
 (The mortality rates for England and Wales refer to the whole population but for London and the towns to civilians only.)

	Rate per 1000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1000 Population.							Rate per 1000 Live Births.		
	Live Births.	Still-births.	All causes	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total Deaths under one year.
England and Wales.....	15.0	0.59	12.1	0.00	—	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.21	4.6	50
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14.8	0.59	12.0	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.19	6.3	53
148 Smaller Towns(1931 Adjusted Populations, 25,000—50,000)	15.6	0.57	11.2	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.20	3.0	40
London	12.3	0.44	11.9	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.18	8.2	48
Stalybridge	12.60	0.64	16.84*	0.00	—	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.21	3.3	47

* Corrected Death-rate

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows: { per 1000 Live Births.... 0.77 Puerperal Sepsis. 2.16 Others. 2.93
 Total Births .. 0.74 .. 2.08 .. 2.82

DEATHS. Deaths numbered 363 with a corrected death-rate of 16.84, the previous year's figures being 311 and 14.22.

TABLE II.
NUMBER OF DEATHS.
FOR THE YEAR 1939.
Causes of Death.

Enteric Fever	0
Measles	1
Scarlet Fever	0
Whooping Cough	0
Diphtheria	1
Influenza	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	8
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2
Syphilis	0
General Paralysis of the Insane	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	57
Diabetes	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	14
Heart Disease	123
Aneurysm	0
Other Circulatory Diseases	36
Bronchitis	13
Pneumonia (all forms)	18
Other Respiratory Diseases	2
Peptic Ulcer	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	2
Appendicitis	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	0
Other Diseases of Liver, etc	2
Other Digestive Diseases	8
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	5
Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal Causes	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	6
Senility	17
Suicide	4
Other Violence	12
Other Defined Diseases	20
Diseases, ill-defined or unknown	3
All causes	363

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Infant Deaths numbered 14, giving a rate of 47.45. The rate although higher than the exceptional figure of 37 recorded last year, is still below the average for the Country as a whole.

Birth, Death, and Infantile Mortality rates are noted below:

<u>Births</u>		<u>Deaths</u>		<u>Infantile Mortality.</u>
Births.	Rate.	Deaths.	Rate.	Rate per 1,000live births.
295 —	12.6	36.3 —	15.74	47.45.

The principal causes of deaths in the past year were as follows :

TABLE III.
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN
FOR YEAR 1939.

	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	173	190
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.. .. .	0	0
Measles	0	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	2
Influenza	3	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	4	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1
Syphilis	2	1
General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis.	0	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	19	34
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	7	7
Heart Disease	54	69
Aneurysm	0	0
Other Circulatory Diseases	16	10
Bronchitis.. .. .	6	8
Pneumonia (all forms)	10	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	2	0
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	0	1
Appendicitis	1	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0
Other diseases of the Liver, &c.	2	1
Other Digestive Diseases	7	5
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	2
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Puerperal Causes	0	0
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, &c.	5	3
Senility	3	5
Suicide	2	3
Other Violence.. .. .	9	5
Other Defined Diseases.. .. .	15	13

[illegible]

VACCINAL CONDITION OF POPULATION.

VACCINATION.

Year	Certificates received of successful Primary Vaccination of Children under 14 years during the year.	Statutory declaration received in year.
1933	42	199
1934	30	205
1935	33	198
1936	24	180
1937	28	144
1938	41	172
1939	19	146

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

The number of cases attended by midwives during the year:—

(1) As midwives	102
(2) As maternity nurses	85

The number of cases during the year in which medical aid was summoned by a midwife under the Midwives Act — 91.

BACTERIOLOGY.

SWABS.

DESCRIPTION	RESULTS		Total
	Positive	Negative	
FOR K.L.B.			
THROAT - -	30	87	117
NASAL - -	1	7	8

VIRULENCE TEST.

7 swabs returned as positive were investigated for virulence and of these 4 proved to be virulent and 3 non-virulent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Two stool examinations, 1 widal and 1 blood count were performed during the year, the first three giving negative results.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS and MILKSHOPS.

A detailed examination of the premises of milk producers

in the area is shortly to be made. Methylene Blue testing is done periodically, while pasteurised milk sold in the Borough is submitted to phosphatase testing.

Controls were taken to check the latter.

WATER SUPPLY.

The following is an extract kindly supplied by the Water Engineer:—

“The bacteriological laboratory at the Committee’s Offices, established last year, has given valuable service. 170 bacteriological examinations have been made and the slightest deterioration in the quality of the water immediately noted and steps taken to eliminate the causes.

Ample quantities have been available throughout the year.

The quantity supplied to the Stalybridge District during the year ended 25th March, 1939, was:—

(1) For domestic purposes ...	238,686,480 galls.
(2) For trade purposes	35,194,520 galls.
	<hr/>
	273,881,000 galls.
	<hr/>

The average consumption for all purposes throughout the whole area of supply is 25. 12 gallons per head per day.”

GENERAL.

Action was taken during the year under Section 140 of the Public Health Act, 1936 in respect of two premises in the Matley Area. In each case an order was made safeguarding the water supply.

Routine sampling of the general supply continues and this serves as a useful check upon the various measures taken to ensure the purity of the supply.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Bacteriological examination of the chlorinated water is made periodically. A satisfactory standard is maintained.

Mr. Sutcliffe, the Baths Superintendent, kindly informs me that 37,001 males and 18,893 females used the baths during the year.

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary conveniences at St. James, Millbrook, have not yet been converted to a type fully abreast of modern standards, and it is hoped that this will shortly be remedied.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Clinic at the Mechanics' Institute is in use as a First Aid Post, and at the commencement of the war a restricted form of Clinic only was possible. Ante-natal clinics were not interrupted, and the normal clinics were resumed after a few months. Arrangements for the supply of milk and other foods were never interrupted.

It would appear that attendances are likely to be considerably smaller than before the war due to various factors, the employment of married women being one of the most important.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS (PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936).

313 notifications of births were received during the year, 297 of these related to live-births and 16 to still births.

189 notifications were received from midwives, whilst 124 were received from institutions .

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The 14 deaths under 1 year included 6 under 1 month. These last constituted the neo-natal mortality. Such causes as

spina bifida, congenital hydrocephalus, prematurity and jaundice, show that much still remains to be done before the neo-natal rate can be reduced markedly.

Every year the neo-natal deaths form a relatively high proportion of the total infantile deaths and continuous skilled ante-natal care is the first line of attack in dealing with this problem.

1 death in a child aged 2 months was attributable to over-lying, and making due allowance for housing difficulties, it may safely be asserted that such a cause should not occur. It is imperative that each infant should have provision made for sleeping by itself and this does not necessarily imply the provision of a costly cot.

HEALTH VISITOR'S WORK.

The following is a tabular summary of the visits made by the Health Visitors during the year:—

Number of primary visits to children...	0—1 year	290
„ other visits to children...	0—1 year	1918
„ „ „ „	1—2 years	1029
„ „ „ „	2—3 years	826
„ „ „ „	3—4 years	826
„ „ „ „	4—5 years	929
„ „ „ re infant deaths		13
„ „ „ re still births		17
„ „ „ Ante-natal		23
„ „ „ Post-natal		5
Total		5876

Infectious disease visits	52
---------------------------------	----

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

During the year 114 cases were seen and 442 attendances in all were made.

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

20 new cases were seen and a total of 29 attendances were made.

INFANT CONSULTATION CENTRE.

Number of Sessions held (Jan.to Aug.)	73
Total number of Attendances of Infants	6066
Average Attendance per session	83
Total number of children who attended the Centre for the first time during the year: Jan. to Aug. :—	
(a) Under 1 year of age.....	165
(b) Between 1 and 5 years	23
Total number of children who were attending the Centre at the close of the year :—	
(c) Under 1 year of age	120
(d) Between 1 and 5 years	425
Number of Infants for whom food was sold	3456
Percentage of Infants receiving foods ...	57%

The percentage of notified live births represented by the number in (a) has not been inserted this year owing to the fact that the clinics were interrupted by the outbreak of war.

	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5
	year	years	years	years	years
1st Visits.....	165 ...	9	4	6	4
Subsequent Visits.....	3043	1482	828	318	207
Number seen by M.O..	925	244	148	73	40

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

Considering the unsettled conditions which prevailed it may be taken that the work done is fully up to the average of previous years.

A recently appointed dental attendant will devote part of her time to Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

PROVISION OF MILK FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

During the year an average of 118 cases per month received a free supply of liquid or dried milk.

The following ordinary sales were also made :

3391 packets of dried milk.

196 lbs. 14 ozs. of Virol.

1963 ozs. of Cod Liver Oil.

and the total receipts were £304 : 17 : 8.

Although coming without the actual scope of this report, gratification may be expressed that a supply of milk to expectant and nursing mothers and young children has at last become available through Government initiative. Comment was made in this report last year on the desirability of such a scheme, and the only regret one must feel is that pasteurisation has not yet been accorded its true place as a safeguard for the milk supplied to young children.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.

During 1939, 37 sessions have been held, and Mr. Poston was present at 5. The total attendances of pre-school children during the year was 202.

The types of new cases dealt with are as follows :

Rickets	1
Genu-Valgam (Knock-Knee)	6
Genu-Varum (Bow-leg)	10
Spurius-Valgam (Flat Feet)	8
Calcaneo-Varus	8
Torticollis (Wry Neck)	1
Infantile Paralysis	1
Congenital Deformities	1
Other conditions	4

In spite of continued preventive measures, Rickets in one or other of its manifestations still presents itself as a regular feature of Child Welfare Practice.

It is interesting to note how some of these cases occur in children who—according to the history—have had vitamin supplements from shortly after birth, and a knowledge of the families concerned leads one to trust the evidence given.

Another interesting feature is the apparently spontaneous improvement in certain cases given the minimum of medical attention.

It would, of course, be unwise to infer that these exceptions disprove the assertion that both vitamins and medical supervision are essential childhood helps.

ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT.

16 children received a course of treatment as against 29 last year.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

Provision is made for sight defects to be treated by the visiting surgeon and this is becoming increasingly appreciated.

DENTAL CLINIC.

Expectant mothers and children under 5 have a special clinic devoted to them, with disappointing results.

The dentist suggests that general Anæsthetics are essential before any marked progress is likely to result and this view has a good deal to commend it.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

No children were under supervision at the close of 1939.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

It would be ungenerous not to express my sincere appreciation of the unfailing and valuable assistance rendered at the Welfare Centre by the following ladies :

Mrs. Tonge.	Miss Broadbent.
Miss Sylvester.	Mrs. Pocock.
Mrs. Cropper.	Mrs. Froggart.
Mrs. McCarthy.	Mrs. J. Bottomley.
Mrs. Revell.	Mrs. Harris.
Mrs. L. Bottomley.	Mrs. I. Walker.

The many calls which the war has made upon them in other directions seems in no way to have lessened their enthusiasm for Maternity and Child Welfare work.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Incidence :

	1939.	1938.
Diphtheria	49	74
Scarlet Fever	20	41
Tuberculosis (all forms)	24	33
Miscellaneous	33	41
	—	—
	126	189
	—	—

The 1939 figures give cause for relative satisfaction. From the point of view of effective control, notification of Measles and Whooping Cough seems likely to be little value. The regard—or lack of it—in which these diseases have been held by the public for many years, makes it reasonably certain that very many cases will never come to light at all through notifi-

cation, while the nature of spread admirably lends itself to the procedure of “locking the door when the horse has gone out.”

The exclusion of school contacts is another matter regarding which doubts must arise.

If the contacts were to be rigorously isolated—a practical impossibility — greater confidence in the present system might be justified. As it is, however, sight is apt to be lost of the fact that the spread of infectious disease in children is not limited to school premises, and to permit contacts to lead a normal life save for non-attendance at school, does not conform with the argument underlying their exclusion. The idea is to keep such children away from crowds and so to spare others the possibility of infection. Doctors’ surgeries, Welfare Centres, and the like are therefore not places to which children exposed to infectious disease should be taken.

DISINFECTION.

During the year 80 beds, 170 pillows and bolsters, 205 blankets and 525 other articles have been dealt with at the Disinfection Station.

SPECIFIC INFECTIONS.

DIPHTHERIA.

Two deaths occurred during the year in one of which Nasal Diphtheria was the certified cause.

The case of Diphtheria which has progressed to a marked swelling of the neck glands, and has been labelled “Mumps” by the knowledgeable relative who claims to have seen “others just like it,” is a commonplace that had more appropriately become a rarity.

I would make certain suggestions:

1. Every parent should look at his child’s throat when the child is not complaining, as only in this way can

the normal appearance of the throat be recognised, and unless this is known, the abnormal is not likely to be appreciated.

2. Examine the throat of every sick child.
3. Examine the throat of everyone ill and complaining of sore throat or showing neck swelling.
4. Never forget to look at the throat of any child who is thought to be suffering from mumps.
5. Let your Medical Practitioner clear up any doubts.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Total Number Attending	105
Number of children completing course	63
Number of children failing to complete course	20
Number still attending	22
Number schicked	69
Number of pre-school children who attended...	69
Number of school children who attended	34
Number over school age who attended	2

Completion of the course is taken as including attendance for purposes of schick testing 3 months after the last infection. This actually makes the percentage of defaulters far higher than would be the case were schick testing not to be included as part of the course, i.e. if the standard was less exacting.

It is regrettable that the figures relative to immunisation show a drop as compared with the previous year, and it is to be hoped that a decreased incidence of Diphtheria will not engender any false sense of security on the part of the Public generally. The number of children immunised in this Borough gives no cause for any expectation whatsoever that the present falling Diphtheria rate will continue indefinitely.

Advantage should in fact be taken to immunise every child against Diphtheria so that the numbers would then be able to influence the recurrence of any epidemics. The best time to immunise a child is not when it goes to school but as soon as possible after the age of 12 months.

SCARLET FEVER.

20 cases were notified as against 41 the previous year, and of the notified cases 11 were removed to hospital. Again it might be emphasised that under reasonable conditions at home, hospitalisation is not in the best interests of the average case.

PNEUMONIA.

18 deaths were certified during the year as being caused by this disease as compared with 15 notifications. Only two of the 18 deaths had been previously notified and allowing for various governing factors, these figures would seem to indicate the limitations of Pneumonia notifications as criteria of either the mortality or the morbidity of this disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications during the year — 24 — show a welcome decrease as compared with last year — 33.

TUBERCULOSIS MORTALITY.

8 deaths occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis as against 15 last year. 2 deaths occurred from other forms of Tuberculosis as against the same number last year.

Again it must be submitted that apart from other factors such as nutrition, housing conditions must be regarded as a vital factor not only in safeguarding the well-being of the sufferer but also in preventing the spread of the disease to other members of the same family who may be compelled to live in the closest proximity to a case of open Tuberculosis. The prevalence of bone and joint Tuberculosis might be materially

lowered by the better application of safeguards to the national milk supply and equally the decreased incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis must be credited in large measure to the improved housing conditions of recent years. Much however, still remains to be done in this direction.

TUBERCULOSIS—SPUTUM EXAMINATIONS.

55 specimens were examined, 5 were positive and 50 negative.

CANCER.

53 deaths during the year were attributed to cancer.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

3 cases were notified during the year. Prompt treatment resulted in vision being left unaffected.

HOUSING.

The number of houses represented under Section 11, Sub-Section 1 of the Housing Act, 1936 was 19.

The number of new houses built was 85.

The number of slum- clearance families re-housed was 69.

GENERAL.

Housing and more especially re-housing is likely to show considerably less progress during the war than previously.

Certain back-to-back properties were made through in the course of the year with satisfactory results. In many cases, however, it is practically impossible to alter houses in such a way as to bring them up to the standard of modern working class dwellings. The whole plan of many old dwellings is such as never to have visualised even as luxuries amenities which in present day dwellings are regarded as necessities.

It is certain that a great deal still remains to be done in the direction of housing improvements not only with regard to houses outstanding from previous surveys, but also with many houses which may have deteriorated in condition since the last housing programme was formulated.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1939.



GENERAL INSPECTION.

The total number of inspections, interviews and re-visits made is 3505, and the number of defects for which informal and formal notices were served numbered 813.

The following table shows a summary of the principal nuisances and defects (excluding defects under Housing Acts) which have been dealt with:—

Defective and blocked drains	26
Defective and blocked W.C's	29
General defects on property	328
Defective Ashbins	187
Smoke nuisances	2

The total number of dwellinghouses inspected during the year is 143.

Eighty-five newly erected houses have been certified fit for human habitation during the year.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

During the year a further 24 ashpits have been replaced by ashbins. 23 ashpits now remain in the town.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The number of slaughterhouses in use throughout the year was seven. Each is licenced annually. They have been kept in a clean condition throughout the year.

637 visits were paid to these premises during the year for the purpose of inspection of carcasses.

Slaughtermen's licences are issued for a period of one year. 29 such licences were renewed during the year.

All the butchers' shops and premises where food is stored or prepared are regularly inspected, the number of visits paid being 1237.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There were no extensive sewerage works during the year.

At the Springs Housing Scheme 260 lineal yards of 9 inch sewer and 100 lineal yards of 6 inch, have been laid.

For the drainage at Cheetham's Mill, 115 lineal yards of 6 inch drains were laid.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Three premises are used for the trade of tripe boiler, two for marine stores, one for rag and bone dealer and in one factory, fat is extracted from hotel, restaurant and other wastes, the residue being manufactured into fertilisers and poultry foods.

These premises are periodically visited and are kept in a satisfactory condition.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

Under this heading, 26 observations were taken during the year. The time limit is ten minutes in the hour for dense smoke. The limit was exceeded on two occasions. In each case, warning notices were sent but no legal proceedings were taken.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

In the Borough there are:—

Factories (with mechanical power) ...	67
Factories (without mechanical power)	33
Bakehouses	46

The premises are periodically inspected throughout the year and in general have been kept in a good, clean condition.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

House and trade refuse has been regularly removed, and for almost the whole of the Borough a weekly service is now maintained. Collection is carried out by three refuse waggons, comprising two S. D. Freighters and one Karrier Bantam. The Department is now wholly mechanical. As the year progressed more and more attention and time was spent on salvage of waste materials.

3813 loads of house and trade refuse were collected during the year.

For one week in each month the loads of refuse collected are weighed, and from the weights an average load was approximated to be 1 ton, 9 cwts., 3 qrs. The total weight of refuse collected was 5671 tons.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL.

Controlled tipping - - - - - 100%
 Average length of haul to point of disposal $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The purchase of Glent quarry for tipping purposes, mentioned in last year's report, was completed and tipping commenced in August.

The following table shows the number of ashbins, middens and pits which have received attention during the year:

Ashbins.	Middens	Pits.	Loads.
315,319	1	234	3813

The number of middens, ashpits and ashbins is shown below in each ward, the refuse from which is removed by this Department.

	Privy Middens	Dry Ashpits.	Ashbins.
Lancashire Ward ..	—	1	1683
Stayley Ward .. .	—	16	2449
Dukinfield Ward		3	1293
Millbrook Ward ..	1	3	811
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 6236

Costs of Cleansing Service for year ended 31st March, 1940.

Net cost of collection...	£337
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„ „ disposal ...	£623
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Total Cost ...	£4000
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Net cost of collection per ton ...	11s. 11d.
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„ „ disposal „	2s. 2.5d.
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Total cost per ton ...	14s. 1.5d.
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